

Appl. No. 09/418,902
Amdt. Dated May 24, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 24, 2005

REMARKS

A personal Interview was conducted on May 3, 2005 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicants appreciate the opportunity to present arguments regarding the patentability of the pending claims and the consultation provided by the Examiner. The Amendments submitted herein are consistent with those discussed with the Examiner at the Interview, and, thus, are believed to facilitate the examination of the application. Entry and consideration of these Amendments are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18, 54-60, and 73-85 are pending in the application. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 76-85 are allowed, and that Claim 59 is object to, but may be allowable if incorporated into the rejected base claim. Claims 1-18 and 54-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either *Turner, et al.* (US 6,135,988) or *Sageser* (US 6,034,906). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Applicants maintain arguments submitted in the previous Response to Office Action dated December 14, 2004 (which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this Response).

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to further indicate the general positioning of the first, second, and third sections. More particularly, the second section is recited as being disposed immediately subjacent the first section, and the third section is recited as being immediately subjacent the second section. A disposable absorbent article having these features is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 and claims dependent from Claim 1 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 86-93 are submitted. These claims incorporate subject matter that Applicants understand is considered to be allowable subject matter. These claims are therefore also in condition for allowance.

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In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

No fee is believed to be due at this time. If the appropriate Petition for an Extension of Time is not attached hereto (or any other Petition required of the application), this statement shall serve as Applicants' Petition to the U.S.P.T.O. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments related to this response to Deposit Account No. 50-0997 (AHP-P01896US0), maintained by Paula D. Morris & Associates, P.C. d/b/a The Morris Law Firm, P.C..

The undersigned is available for consultation at any time, if the Examiner believes such consultation may expedite the resolution of any issues.

Dated: 05/24, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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